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U.S. Serial No. 08/486,968, filed June 7, 1995, issued January 13, 1998 as U.S. Patent No. 5,707,605; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/460,511, filed June 2, 1995, abandoned.—

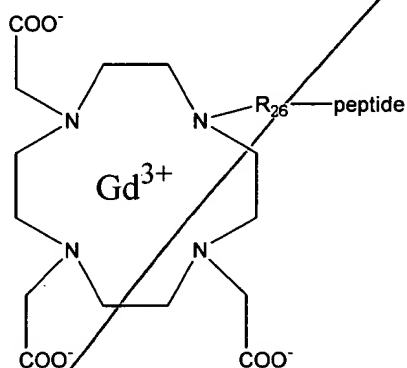
In the Claims

Please cancel claims 12, 16, and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

E 2

22. (Amended) An activatable MRI agent having the formula:

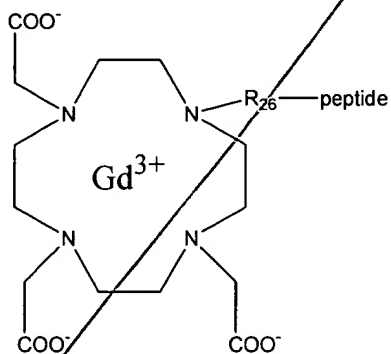


wherein  $\text{R}_{26}$  is a linker; and,  
said peptide interacts with a protease.

E 3

30. (Amended) A method comprising:

- a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



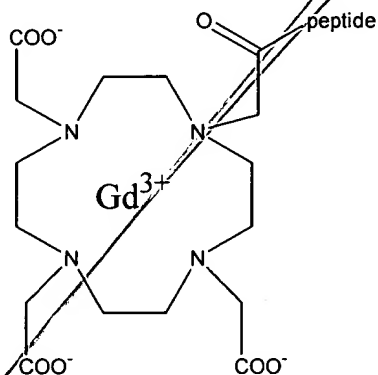
wherein  $\text{R}_{26}$  is a linker, and under conditions whereby said peptide interacts with a target substance in said tissue, cell or patient such that the rapid exchange of water in at least one coordination site of said agent is increased, and,

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b) acquiring a magnetic resonance image of said cell, tissue or patient.

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32. (Amended) A method of according to claim 30 or 42, said MRI agent having the formula:



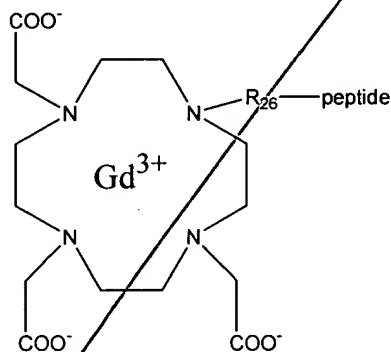
33. (Amended) A method according to claim 30, 32 or 42 wherein said target substance is a protease and said peptide interacts with said protease.

Please add the following new claims:

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--42. A method comprising:

a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



wherein R<sub>26</sub> is a linker, and under conditions wherein said peptide hinders the rapid exchange of water in at least one coordination site;

b) contacting said peptide with a target substance such that the exchange of water in at least one coordination site is increased upon interaction of said peptide with said target substance; and a therapeutic effect is elicited.

43. An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said peptide inhibits said protease.